

Senate Bill 85

By: Senators Schaefer of the 50th, Rogers of the 21st, Shafer of the 48th, Pearson of the 51st, Douglas of the 17th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other educational programs, so as to provide that home school students and private school students may participate in extracurricular activities of public schools; to provide a short title; to provide a definition; to provide for conditions of participation; to provide for nondiscrimination against such students; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Equal Access to Extracurricular Activities Act."

SECTION 2.

Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other educational programs, is amended by adding a new Code Section 20-2-319.3 to read as follows:

"20-2-319.3.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'extracurricular activities' includes, but is not limited to, athletics and athletic teams and music, dance, art, drama, forensics, and other fine arts and individual and team competitions in such areas.

(b) A student who is pursuing a course of home study under Code Section 20-2-690 may participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by or engaged in by the public school which the student would otherwise attend if not pursuing the home study course. Such student shall pay any participation or activity fee in an amount equal to the fee paid by public school participants; the student shall adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team or activity; and the student shall adhere to the same academic standards as other participants

1 of the team or activity which shall be confirmed by appropriate documentation provided
2 by the student to the public school providing the activity in which the student desires to
3 participate or is participating. No public school shall discriminate against such students in
4 the selection of teams or in accepting such students for participation in an extracurricular
5 activity.

6 (c) A student who is attending a private school under Code Section 20-2-690 may
7 participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by or engaged in by the public school
8 which the student would otherwise attend if not attending the private school. Such student
9 shall pay any participation or activity fee in an amount equal to the fee paid by public
10 school participants; the student shall adhere to the same standards of behavior,
11 responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team or
12 activity; and the student shall adhere to the same academic standards as other participants
13 of the team or activity which shall be confirmed by appropriate documentation provided
14 by the private school to the public school providing the activity in which the student desires
15 to participate or is participating. No public school shall discriminate against such students
16 in the selection of teams or in accepting such students for participation in an extracurricular
17 activity.

18 (d) No public school team or group shall be impeded from competing against any other
19 public or private team or group merely because the public school's team or group utilizes
20 or has students who are pursuing home study courses or attend private schools under this
21 Code section."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.